

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART: 2 OF 4

FILE NUMBER: HQ 157-2466



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT:

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART 2 OF 4

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/11/65

PITTSBURGH (157-429) (RUC)

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RM

Re Baltimore letter to the Bureau dated 9/22/65.

On 10/4/65, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that there is no known meeting place in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., which might be used for a meeting of the Deacons For Defense, with the exception of the high school auditorium and the National Park Service facilities at the Mather Training Center. [REDACTED] said that to his knowledge there has been no effort made by any group to have any type of a meeting in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., on 12/4/65.

[REDACTED] identified 12/4 as the anniversary of the date of the hanging of JOHN BROWN at nearby Charles Town, W. Va.

It is noted that the Harpers Ferry, W. Va., Post Office services much of the nearby area located in the State of Maryland.

[REDACTED] said that the I.B.P.O.E. W. (Negro Elks) have their national headquarters at what is known as the Kennedy Farmhouse, which is actually the farmhouse used by JOHN BROWN and his raiders before their attack on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859. This farmhouse is located in Maryland, approximately one-half mile from the Samples Manor Church. [REDACTED] pointed out that the property owned by the I.B.P.O.E. W. includes various outlying buildings besides the Kennedy Farmhouse and specifically, a large hall which has offices and a large dance hall. He pointed out that meetings can be

2-Bureau
2-Baltimore (157-1008)
1-Newark (157-1992) (Info)
1-Pittsburgh (157-429)

REC-67

EX-101

OCT 14 1965

ERF:djr

(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1-gw/jr

INT. SEC.

held in this specific building located at the Kennedy Farmhouse.

██████████ said that the I.B.P.O.E.W. is now in the process of selling their holdings at the Kennedy Farmhouse with the intention of moving their headquarters to the West Coast, but that no buyer for the property has been found to date.

b7C
b7D

LEADS

BALTIMORE

At Sandy Hook, Md.

Will locate the facility owned by the I.B.P.O.E.W. and through established sources, identify the affair planned for 12/4/65.

10/19/65

1 - Mr. Murphy

To: SACs Los Angeles (157-1184)
New Orleans (157-3290)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

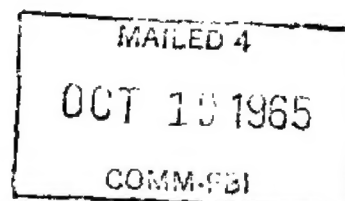
Reference Los Angeles teletype 10/19/65 captioned
above. Los Angeles should submit by return airtel the information
contained in referenced teletype in letterhead memorandum form.

The Los Angeles Office should closely follow
with the Los Angeles Office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax
and furnish all available information to the Bureau in letterhead
memorandum form.

Although the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division has
primary jurisdiction regarding this matter, the New Orleans Office
should closely follow this matter and attempt to develop infor-
mation through New Orleans sources in connection with the
continuing investigation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

1 - Dallas

BPM: ceh
(7)



NOTE:

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division source in Louisiana
advised that Czech manufacturer delivered 420 machine guns
the Deacons of Defense and Justice at Baton Rouge, Louisiana,
in July, 1965.

Alcohol,
Tobacco
Firearm
referral

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DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gld/llk
EX-112

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 10/14/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/31/65 - 9/11/65
TITLE OF CASE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED] b7c	CHARACTER OF CASE RM

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

LEADS

AT FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [REDACTED]
 Ferriday Unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1/...

APPROVED		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		0-17 WU Re: 136-15 18-22 mky	151	
8 - Bureau (RM)				
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans (RM)				
1 - ICG, New Orleans (RM)				
1 - ONI, New Orleans (RM)				
1 - OSI, Barksdale AFB, La. (RM)				
3 - New Orleans 2-(157-5624) 1-(66-2404)				
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS.		
AGENCY.	ICC PAF yagly. Dore. out. OST. HST. Sec. Serv.			
REQUEST RECD.	D. + Colman. Relations Service			
DATE FWD.	10/25/55			
HOW FWD.	13 PM			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS (RM) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
1 - ICG, NEW ORLEANS (RM)
1 - ONI, NEW ORLEANS (RM)
1 - OSI, BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE (RM)

Copy to:

Report of:

SA [REDACTED] b7C Office

NEW ORLEANS

Date:

OCTOBER 12, 1965

Field Office File No.:

NO 157-5624

Bureau File No.:

Title:

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
FERRIDAY, LOUISIANA

Character:

RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis:

[REDACTED] Ferriday Unit of
the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated,
Ferriday, Louisiana, advised that although the unit
has been chartered by the National Organization the
unit has had no meeting nor is there any firm
commitment from prospective members.

[REDACTED]
He stated efforts are now being made to secure at
least 20 members for the unit at Ferriday, La.

- P -

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon information that
a unit of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Incorporated, had
been chartered at Ferriday, Louisiana.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP 8/21-150

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OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 920 1-4-7-21-80
REASON--FCIM-11, 1-2.4.2-2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-14-88

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 9/6/65

[REDACTED] Ferriday, Louisiana,
furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] advised that he did not think that a
chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been
officially formed at Ferriday, Louisiana

He stated during the time when acts of violence
were being committed almost nightly in Ferriday, Louisiana,
a group headed by VICTOR GRAHAM contacted the Deacons in
Bogalusa, Louisiana, to ascertain the procedure for forming
the Deacons, at Ferriday, Louisiana. Initially, a repre-
sentative of the Deacons at Bogalusa was supposed to come to
Ferriday to get the chapter started; however, this never
materialized.

[REDACTED] He stated
that since the violence has stopped in Ferriday, Louisiana,
he has heard no talk, either from GRAHAM or anyone else about
forming a Deacons for Defense and Justice at Ferriday, Louisiana.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

On 8/31/65 at Ferriday, Louisiana File NO 157-562

by SA [REDACTED] / cal b7C
SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/3/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to
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XXXXXX
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FBI

Date: 10/15/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (105-2612)

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF PROTEST
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-21-80 BY SAH/...

Re New Orleans teletype to Bureau 10/15/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM which relate to proposed demonstration in New Orleans on 10/16/65 reported in referenced teletype.

Enclosed for Milwaukee and San Francisco are one copy each of LHM since these offices are origin in "National Coordination Committee to End The War in Viet Nam" and "Viet Nam Day Committee" respectively.

The confidential source referred to in LHM is

[REDACTED]

b7C
b7D

157-2466-

No information has been developed at New Orleans concerning demonstrations at military bases or concerning draft card burnings. New Orleans will follow the proposed demonstration on 10/16/65 and the Bureau will be advised.

- 3 - Bureau (Encls. 8) (RM)
- 1 - Milwaukee (Info) (100-14700) (Encl. 1) (RM)
- 1 - San Francisco (Info) (100-Viet Nam Day Committee) (Encl. 1) (RM)
- 4 - New Orleans (2: 105-2612) (1: 100-17231) (1: 157-3290)

NFS:sab
(9)

AGENCY: G-2, ONI, OSI

RAO

Approved: C. Wick

Special Agent in Charge

DATE FORW: 16 OCT 20 1965
HOW FORW: BY: Sent M Per



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
October 15, 1965

PROPOSED DEMONSTRATIONS
PROTESTING UNITED STATES
POLICY IN VIET NAM AT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
OCTOBER 16, 1965

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] advised that there would be a meeting in the
school cafeteria at Loyola University at 7:30 p.m., October 15,
1965, in preparation for a demonstration in the form of picketing
in front of the Federal Building at 701 Loyola Avenue, New
Orleans, Louisiana, at 2 p.m., October 16, 1965.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] stated that Aubrey Woods, whom he identified as the
New Orleans representative of the Deacons for Defense and
Justice, would attend the meeting on October 15, 1965. However,
the source did not know whether any members for the Deacons
for Defense and Justice would take part in the picketing on
October 16, 1965.

-This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to
your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed
outside your agency.

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DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1361/v

157-26-
ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

b7C
b7D

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 10/19/65

Department of Defense and Justice is an all-Negro organization based in Louisiana and having as its main purpose the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan violence. It is the subject of a pending Bureau investigation.

Attached reports Treasury investigation of the alleged acquisition of automatic weapons which is in the investigative jurisdiction of Treasury.

We are advising the Department and following this matter closely.

PM:deh

(3)

Alcohol
Tobacco
+ Firearms
Referral

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 19 1965

TELETYPE

1059 AM PDT URGENT 10-19-65 PLS

TO DIRECTOR (157-2466)

NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

FROM LOS ANGELES (157-1184) 2P

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM, GG: NEW ORLEANS.

ATTU, ~~US~~ TREASURY, LOS ANGELES TODAY ADVISED
ATTU SOURCE HAS CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUAL CONNECTED WITH
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN FIREARMS MANUFACTURER. THIS INDIVIDUAL ADVISED
ATTU SOURCE THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF CZECH MANUFACTURER DELIVERED
FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY MACHINE GUNS, NOT FURTHER DESCRIBED, TO THE
DEACONS AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, IN JULY, NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE.
WEAPONS ALLEGEDLY STORED BATON ROUGE.

ATTU SOURCE IS OF BELIEF HE CAN OBTAIN LIST OF SERIAL
NUMBERS OF A NUMBER OF MACHINE GUNS MANUFACTURED BY THE CZECH
FACTORY. SERIAL NUMBERS PERTAINING TO THE FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY
MACHINE GUNS TURNED OVER TO DEACONS WILL BE INCLUDED ON LIST.

ADVISED HIS SOURCE WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN SERIAL
NUMBERS FROM PLANT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ATTU SOURCE HAS BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILS RE ENTIRE WEAPONS
TRANSACTION INCLUDING SERIAL NUMBERS AND POSSIBLE PRESENT
LOCATION OF WEAPONS IN BATON ROUGE.

END PAGE ONE

55 OCT 28 1965

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DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gml/jk

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PAGE TWO

ATTU, LOS ANGELES, HAS ALERTED THEIR DALLAS OFFICE WHICH
DISCOVERS LOUISIANA.

AT & F
referral

LOS ANGELES WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ATTU, LOS
ANGELES, FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT DETAILS.

AM COPY DALLAS FOR INFO.

ATTN: MAIL

END

WA...BXG RPP

FBI WASH DC

NO...LWH

FBI NEW ORLS

TU

2 A 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ Anchorage
☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☐ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
☐ Charlotte
☐ Chicago
☐ Cincinnati
☐ Cleveland
☐ Dallas
☐ Denver
☐ Detroit
☐ El Paso
☐ Honolulu

☐ Indianapolis
☐ Jackson
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Kansas City
☐ Knoxville
☐ Las Vegas
☐ Little Rock
☐ Los Angeles
☐ Louisville
☐ Memphis
☐ Miami
☐ Milwaukee
☐ Minneapolis
☐ Mobile
☐ Newark
☒ New Haven
☒ New Orleans

☐ New York City
☐ Norfolk
☐ Oklahoma City
☐ Omaha
☐ Philadelphia
☐ Phoenix
☐ Pittsburgh
☐ Portland
☐ Richmond
☐ St. Louis
☐ Salt Lake City
☐ San Antonio
☐ San Diego
☐ San Francisco
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Seattle
☐ Springfield

☐ Washington Field
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ London
☐ Manila
☐ Mexico, D.F.
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Rio de Janeiro
☐ Tokyo

Date 10/22/65

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
 RACIAL MATTERS

☐ For information ☐ Retention optional ☒ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks: ReLatel 10/19/65 and Buairtel 10/19/65.

New Orleans should advise appropriate local authorities, Army intelligence and Secret Service of the contents of referenced teletype.

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 DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1804/ff

Enc. 157-2466
 Bufile 157-3290
 Urfile

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (157-2466) (RM)

DATE: 10/25/65

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (157-1446) (RM) - RUC

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE & JUSTICE, aka
RM

OO: New Orleans

Re BH tel to Bureau dated 9/2/65, AM copy
to New Orleans; BH airtel, enclosing LHM, dated 9/3/65.

Referenced communications set forth all
pertinent information available to Birmingham concerning
captioned group. There are no outstanding leads in this
matter in the Birmingham Office.

In view of above, BH is considering this
case RUC to OO.

2 Bureau - RM
2 New Orleans (157-3290) - RM
1 Birmingham

MME:fc
(5)

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DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 JRM/1

EC-61

157-2466-75



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

10/22/65

Airtel

1 - Mr. Murphy

To: SAC, Chicago (157-572)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

The following information was contained in a United Press International news release, dated 10/16/65:

"Chicago--the Deacons for Defense and Justice, a gun-carrying group of southern Negroes dedicated to meeting force with force, plans to establish its first chapter in the North in Chicago.

Earnest Thomas, Vice President of the group, said yesterday the group has 62 chapters in Dixie. The Chicago chapter was planned because the Ku Klux Klan, which the Deacons were formed to fight, is 'moving North and we're going to try to curtail some of its activity,' he said.

Thomas, who lives in Jonesboro, La., the birthplace of the Deacons, said the group operates in the South 'by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars.'

He said the primary purpose behind the group was to meet the KKK and similar groups on its own terms."

1 - New Orleans (157-3290)

BPM:pjn;deh

(5)

ENCLOSURE

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MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

7-21-80 BY SP/JP/JP

16 OCT 21 1965

An extra copy of this report is being disseminated to the Bureau for further dissemination to Secret Service, inasmuch as members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, in some instances fall within category 5(c). In view of this, a copy of this report pertaining to the organization is being furnished to Secret Service in order that they may have a better understanding of activities of various individuals in whom they have jurisdictional interest.

A copy of this report is being furnished to ICG, ONI, New Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, in view of their respective interests in Klan matters.

COVER PAGE B*

Airtel to SAC, Chicago
Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
157-2466

As you are aware, the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ) is a Negro organization having as its main purpose the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan violence. Said organization has been active in demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

In view of the foregoing and because of the potential for violence, Chicago should initiate immediate inquiry to determine available facts concerning the plans of the DDJ to start a chapter in Chicago. Follow closely any actual efforts in this regard and if a chapter is organized, develop necessary sources in order to fully obtain information concerning the activities of the DDJ leaders and the group's activities.

You should be alert to any indications of subversion and/or outside influences on the DDJ. Also, you should establish such sources as may be necessary to run out information regarding weapons reportedly possessed by the DDJ and any leads regarding weapons' suppliers.

Chicago should also be alert for any information indicating an extension of the DDJ to other northern cities. Leads should be promptly set out and New Orleans, the office of origin, fully informed concerning developments.

Bureau must be promptly advised of all developments regarding the DDJ and information suitable for dissemination should be submitted by letterhead memorandum.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

UPI-42

(RACIAL)

CHICAGO--THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, A GUN-CARRYING GROUP OF SOUTHERN NEGROES DEDICATED TO MEETING FORCE WITH FORCE, PLANS TO ESTABLISH ITS FIRST CHAPTER IN THE NORTH IN CHICAGO.

EARNEST THOMAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP, SAID YESTERDAY THE GROUP HAS 62 CHAPTERS IN DIXIE. THE CHICAGO CHAPTER WAS PLANNED BECAUSE THE KU KLUX KLAN, WHICH THE DEACONS WERE FORMED TO FIGHT, IS "MOVING NORTH AND WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO CURTAIL SOME OF ITS ACTIVITY," HE SAID.

THOMAS, WHO LIVES IN JONESBORO, LA., THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE DEACONS, SAID THE GROUP OPERATES IN THE SOUTH "BY RIDING ARMED WITH PISTOLS AND GOOD RIFLES IN RADIO-EQUIPPED CARS."

HE SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE BEHIND THE GROUP WAS TO MEET THE KKK AND SIMILAR GROUPS ON ITS OWN TERMS.

10/16--TD10:8AED

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DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gch/fh

ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Mr. Trotter
 Room
 Mr. James
 Miss Goff

TO DIRECTOR, FBI //19// AND NEW ORLEANS

-----/ NEW ORLEANS VIA WASHINGTON ENCODED

FROM NEW YORK /157-1542/ 1 PAGE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP180/pk-7202
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-22-85

LHM FOLLOWS. NYO WILL COVER.

ND -

JA...MSE

FBI WASH DC

REC-21

EX-119

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 10/23/65

FROM : SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., AKA RACIAL MATTER

(OO: New Orleans)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpl 1/4/72
REASON FOR EXTENSION 292
DATE OF REVIEW 10-20-85

Re Jackson airtel with LHM dated 9/3/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of [redacted] and two copies are submitted for New Orleans. One copy is being forwarded to INTC, OSI, ONI, and Secret Service, [redacted] and [redacted] have been advised of results in LHM.

The investigation set forth in the LHM was conducted by SA [redacted] b7C

[redacted]

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will through sources conduct appropriate investigation to determine CHARLES SIMS and ROY BURRIS further plans for assisting in the organization of chapter in Mississippi. Will advise Jackson in the event the Bogalusa Chapter or any other chapters send deacons to Mississippi for meetings.

- 2 - Bureau (157-2466) (Encs. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encs. 2) (RM)
- 5 - Jackson (157-3465) (Encs. 5)
- JIO/kmm
- (9)

(1 - 157-452) (RM)
(1 - 157-3371) [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE FORWARDED: 11/10/65
HOW FORWARDED: [redacted]
BY: B.P.M.C.

Handwritten initials

157-2466-78

10 NOV 1 1965

JN 157-3465

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JACKSON DIVISION

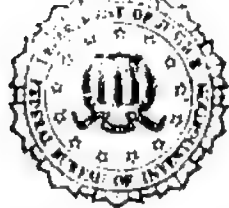
AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ). If chapter in Mississippi organized, will attempt to determine leadership, strength of members, activities as well as arms acquired.

Will attempt to determine potentiality for violence and any outside influence on chapters.

Will determine if DDJ from Louisiana arrived in Mississippi for discussions with possible DDJ members.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

October 25, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

[REDACTED] advised on September 23, 1965 he attended a meeting at the Masonic Temple located on Lynch Street in Jackson on August 30, 1965. The meeting was sponsored by the Hinds County MDP and the MFD. [REDACTED] arranged to have individuals with the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ) Chapter at Bogalusa, Louisiana, to be there.

[REDACTED] stated he attended the meeting and there were approximately 175 to 200 people in attendance and the principal speakers were Charles Sims, President of the Bogalusa Chapter and Roy Burris, Vice President of Bogalusa Chapter. There were other DDJ members from the Bogalusa Chapter present at the meeting. Arrangements were made to have the members of the DDJ from Bogalusa return to Jackson around September 15 to determine what steps had been made to arrange for DDJ Chapters in Mississippi, especially in Jackson. He said Sims and Burris had advised the persons in attendance they would have to raise funds to form chapters.

[REDACTED] stated that to his knowledge Sims and Burris have not returned to Mississippi and there has been no great interest in forming chapters in Jackson or in Mississippi.

On October 15, 1965, [REDACTED] advised that to his knowledge there had been no chapters formed in the State of Mississippi and he does not believe Sims, Burris or

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 jpk / dv 7-21-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 12
DATE OF REVIEW 10-25-85

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

any other representatives of the DDJ in Louisiana have returned to Mississippi.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has advised he has received no pertinent information of any DDJ Chapters being formed in the State of Mississippi. He said they were following this matter very closely.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has advised he has received no pertinent information concerning any chapters being formed in the State of Mississippi by the DDJ.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] that he had determined there was a group of Negroes in Natchez, Mississippi, who were interested in forming an organization of the DDJ in Natchez. He said there have been protest demonstrations in Natchez by Negroes and several Negroes believe they should organize for their own protection. [REDACTED] that the leader of the Negroes in Natchez appears to be [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to his knowledge there has been no DDJ Chapter formed in Natchez. Although there have been protest demonstrations and marches in Natchez almost on a daily basis, they have been orderly demonstrations. [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] has determined that Charles Sims and Roy Burris may return to Mississippi around the last part of October, 1965, to confer with MFDP leaders concerning the forming of chapters in Mississippi.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] attended the meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, on August 30, 1965, at the Masonic Temple where Deacons from the Bogalusa Chapter spoke to the assembled group. She said Sims and his group were expected to return to Jackson in September to assist in forming groups but they did not. She believes that the Negroes in the State of Mississippi are not interested in forming DDJ Chapters. She based this statement upon the fact MFDP has no funds to support chapters in the State and the Negroes themselves will not support chapters.

She said Sims and Burris had stated they would return to Mississippi but to her knowledge they have not returned to date.

The Jackson, Mississippi "Clarion-Ledger" dated September 10, 1965, carried an article by the Associated Press entitled "Natchez Negroes Reject Deacons for Defense." The article related that Kenneth Dean, Director of the Mississippi Human Relations Council, had told newspapermen that Negroes in the racial torn city of Natchez had turned down offers to organize a chapter of the militant "Deacons of Defense."

[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] that Charles Sims had stated he had been in Jackson, Mississippi the week of August 30, 1965, trying to organize the DDJ's at Jackson. [REDACTED] Sims had indicated the Negroes of (c) Jackson were very reluctant to get involved in the DDJ.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: October 25, 1965

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRMAIL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

Via _____

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184) (P)
RE : DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM
OO: New Orleans.

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau dated 9/29/65, captioned as above, with eight copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) enclosed; New Orleans letter to Los Angeles, dated 10/15/65; Los Angeles teletype to the Bureau and New Orleans dated 10/19/65, and Bureau airtel to Los Angeles and New Orleans, dated 10/19/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau is an original and two copies of an LHM concerning the above-captioned organization's possible receipt of machine guns from a Czechoslovakian firearms manufacturer.

Three copies of the LHM are enclosed for the office of origin, New Orleans, and one copy for Dallas, inasmuch as the Dallas Office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, covers Louisiana. One copy each is also being sent to OSI, Maywood, California, FIO, Los Angeles, and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 8) (Air Mail - Registered)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encs. 3) (Air Mail - Registered)
1 - Dallas (Enc. 1) (Air Mail - Registered)
2 - Los Angeles (157-1184)
RNT:HMS
(8)

AGENCY: ACSI, OMI, OMI, SEC. SER.

DATE FOR

HOW FOR

BY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ Per _____
DATE 1-20-82 BY SP-1/BJK

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

LA 157-1184

For the information of the Bureau and New Orleans, on 10/11/65, [REDACTED] advised that there was no further activity in the San Bernardino-Riverside and Los Angeles area on the part of CHARLES SIMS and A.Z. YOUNG after their appearance at the "Freedom Festival" on 9/23/65, at San Bernardino, California. New Orleans advised 10/15/65, that a source had advised that SIMS and YOUNG have returned to the Bogalusa area.

The information concerning the machine guns was received from ATTU Agent [REDACTED] Los Angeles, who obtained the information from an ATTU source.

This LHM is being classified confidential because this information tends to identify the ATTU source.

Los Angeles will maintain close contact with ATTU for any additional pertinent details.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California
October 25, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

On October 19, 1965, a representative of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California, advised that an ATTU source had reported that a representative of a Czechoslovakian firearms manufacturer delivered 7420 machine guns, not further described, to the "Deacons" at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July, 1965. This source said that the weapons are allegedly stored in Baton Rouge.

Efforts are being made by the ATTU source to obtain serial numbers of the weapons and other details concerning the transaction, including the possible location of the weapons.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

Group I

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 gsk/jr
ON 7-21-80

107-1000-79
ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/28/65

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542) (P)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
RACIAL MATTERS

Re Newark airtel and LHM to the Bureau, dated
9/20/65.

[REDACTED]

b1
b7c

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Baltimore
- 2 - Jackson
- 1 - Newark (157-1542)
- 2 - New Orleans
- 1 - New York (157-1549) (43)
- 1 - New York

GAJ:lls
(12)

EX 110

REC-41

157-2466-80

CLASS--& EXT. BY SP1 [signature]
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4.2 [initials]
DATE OF REVIEW 10-28-85

60 NOV 8 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INT. SEC.

NY 157-1542

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED] made available a leaflet indicating a "discotheque party" was to be held 9/25/65, at 9:30 PM, under the auspices of "The John Brown Commemoration Committee" (JBCC), 100 W. 82nd St., NY 24, NY, Phone EN 2-4954. It is to be noted that this is the address where the benefit for the DDJ was held on 9/18/65.

NFO indices negative re JBCC.

On 10/27/65, [REDACTED] advised their files contain no information re JBCC.

FBI

Date: 10/26/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1542)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Re New York teletype to Bureau, 10/22/65.

Enclosed for Bureau and New Orleans are
copies of LHM in above case.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This LHM is classified "Confidential"
to protect identities of above sources. Unauthorized
disclosure of information attributed to these sources
might impair their future effectiveness and such im-
pairment could have an adverse effect on the national
defense interest.

3-Bureau (Encls. 8) ENCLOSURE
3-New Orleans (Encls. 3)
1-New York

VJA:mjb
(8)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

CLASS. & EXT. BY: SP-1 JEP/10/21/80
REASON - FCIM 11-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-88 Sent M Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 137-1542

[redacted] furnished information
to Special Agent [redacted]. [redacted]
[redacted] furnished information to Special Agent [redacted].

b7C
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
- 2 -



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York

October 26, 1965

NYfile 157-1542

Deacons For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

Characterizations for individuals mentioned
in this communication are set forth at the end thereof.

Confidential sources utilized in this
communication have furnished reliable information in
the past.

[REDACTED]

This document contains neither recommendations nor
conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is
the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is
loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/SLH/7-21-80 GROUP I
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2 Excluded from automatic
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85 downgrading and
declassification

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Deacons For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

The subscriber to telephone 749-8745 is
Friends of the Deacons For Defense and Justice, 271 West 125th
Street, New York City.

[REDACTED] advised
October 25, 1965, that Charles Sims, President of the
DDJ in Louisiana, arrived in New York City at 1:15 p.m.
on Flight 976 Delta Airlines on October 23, 1965.

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[REDACTED] advised on October 25, 1965, that Jessie
Gray of the Community Council on Housing held a street
rally at 125th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City, from
3 to 6 p.m., October 23, 1965, attended by about 115
people. No disturbances occurred during this rally.
[REDACTED] had no information to indicate that
Charles Sims participated in this rally.

(c) b1

A mass rally on black power politics,
spearheaded by Jesse Gray, Harlem rent strike organizer,
was held on Saturday afternoon, October 23, 1965, from
3 to 6 p.m. Jesse Gray brought a sound truck to this
location at 3:00 p.m. He left at the beginning of
the rally but returned later. Meantime, the sound
truck was loaned to LeRoi Jones and his Black Arts
Group. LeRoi Jones took occasion to belabor the Haryou-Act,
a Harlem anti-poverty organization, for cutting off his
pay. He wanted the group to conduct a demonstration
at the offices of Haryou-Act, but this did not
materialize.

Charles Sims from Bogalusa, Louisiana,
did not show up at this rally; however, Mae Mallory was there
and was one of the speakers. She urged support for
the DDJ and praised its work for defense of negroes in the
South. She also appealed for funds for the DDJ.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Deacons For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

Jesse Gray and Rudolph Jones also spoke at the rally and criticized current candidates for political office in New York City. Jesse Gray wanted Negroes to unite and thus exert their own black political power. The rally terminated at 6:00 p.m.

[REDACTED] (c)

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[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

The Fair Play For Cuba Committee
is characterized in the Appendix.

[REDACTED] (c)

Deacons For Defense and Justice
Racial Matters

[REDACTED]

(c)

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The WWP is characterized in the
Appendix.

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1.

APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening In Cuba," placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. CHARLES A. SANTOS-BUCH identified himself and ROBERT TABER as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and TABER obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. This source added that during the past year there had been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that their influence as of May, 1963, was negligible.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On May 20, 1963, a second source advised that VINCENT "TED" LEE, FPCC National Office Director, was then formulating FPCC policy and had indicated that he had no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. This source stated that LEE believed that the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and should support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations. LEE did not advocate supporting the Cuban revolution per se.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The November 23, 1963, edition of "The New York Times" reported that Senator THOMAS J. DODD of Connecticut had called FPCC "the chief public relations instrument of the CASTRO network in the United States." It is to be noted that Senator DODD was a member of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which twice conducted hearings on the FPCC.

The December 27, 1963, edition of "The New York World Telegram and Sun" newspaper stated that the pro-CASTRO FPCC was seeking to go out of business and that its prime activity during its lifetime had been sponsorship of pro-CASTRO street rallies and mass picket lines, and the direction of an active propaganda mill highlighting illegal travel-to-Cuba campaigns. Its comparatively brief span of life was attributed to mounting anti-CASTRO American public opinion, the 1962 Congressional hearings which disclosed FPCC financing by CASTRO's United Nations Delegation, and ultimately, the bad publicity which the FPCC received from disclosure of activities on its behalf by suspected presidential assassin, LEE H. OSWALD.

On February 6, 1964, the previously mentioned second source advised that V. T. LEE had recently remarked that the FPCC was dead and that there were no plans to organize another similar organization.

On April 13, 1964, a third source advised that there had not been any FPCC activity in many months and that the FPCC had been dissolved.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 157-100000

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APPENDIX

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

On April 17, 1959, a confidential source advised that on February 12, 1959, a Socialist Workers Party (SWP) minority group under the leadership of National Committee member, SAM BALLAN, split from the SWP.

The source stated that this minority group, referred to as the Marcyites, after many years of program and policy differences on varied issues concerning tactics and interpretation of political events, split from the SWP on the grounds that the Party was liquidating itself by departing from the Marxist precepts of LEON TROTSKY and retreating from the fight for the world socialist revolution. The final issue which ultimately forced the split was the minority's opposition to the SWP regroupment policy which involved cooperation with the Communist Party (CP) periphery-individuals characterized by the minority as petty-bourgeois.

The minority program, according to source, advocated unconditional defense of the Soviet Union and has as its goal the building of a revolutionary party with a complete proletarian orientation for the purpose of overthrowing capitalism in the United States and throughout the world.

On May 12, 1960, source advised that this minority group had chosen the name Workers World Party.

On May 3, 1965, second source advised that the Workers World Party, which maintains headquarters at 46 West 21st Street, New York, New York, supports the People's Republic of China in its ideological dispute with the Soviet Union.

The SWP and the CP have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: 10/26/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Type in plaintext or code)

EXCEPTIONS CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Transmit the following in

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INC.
RM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/86/1-17-21
REASON - FCIM
DATE OF REVIEW 10-20-85

Re Bureau airtel to Chicago dated 10/22/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of a letter-
head memorandum and for New Orleans three copies of a letter-
head memorandum concerning captioned matter.

[REDACTED] is [REDACTED]
(protect - requested).

b7C
b7D

On 10/23/65, [REDACTED]
advised that intensive investigation has been conducted
concerning EARNEST THOMAS while he has been in Chicago and
there is no indication that he has any office in Chicago at
the present time. [REDACTED] that spot surveillances
of THOMAS have been conducted in Chicago but no address has
been developed for THOMAS in Chicago.

One copy of this letterhead memorandum is being
designated for Secret Service, Chicago, and one copy for the
USA, Chicago.

- 4 - Bureau (Encl 9) (RM)
(1 - 157- [REDACTED])
- 3 - New Orleans (DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.)
(Encl 3) (RM)
(1 - 157- [REDACTED])
- 3 - Chicago
(1 - 157-840) [REDACTED]
(1 - 157-413) ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER., [REDACTED]
AGENCY: [REDACTED]

LGR:mhm
(10)

DATE FORW: 10/29/65
HOW FORW: [REDACTED]
BY: [REDACTED]
16 OCT 27 1965

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

10 107-572

CONFIDENTIAL

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12 LEADS

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14 NEW ORLEANS

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16 AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. Will furnish Chicago a
17 photograph of EARNEST THOMAS and any information that Chicago
18 Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., has been
19 organized in Chicago.
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21
22 CHICAGO

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24 AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will be alert for any information
25 concerning the opening of the Chicago Chapter of the Deacons of
26 Defense and Justice, Inc., and the Bureau and New Orleans will
27 be kept fully informed of developments in this matter.
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(c) [REDACTED]

b1

CONFIDENTIAL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Chicago, Illinois

October 26, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

The following article captioned "Militant Negroes Here
Forming Armed Unit to Fight the Klan" appeared in the October 15,
1965 issue of the "Chicago Daily News," a Chicago, Illinois
newspaper:

"Militant Negroes are organizing a Chicago chapter
of the gun-carrying Deacons for Defense and Justice, a
vigilante group active in battling the Blue Klux Klan
in the South.

"We believe there are Klansmen active in this
city and we're confident they have thousands of
sympathizers here," said Earnest Thomas, 32, the
Deacons' vice president and their full-time paid
national organizer.

"While we have 62 chapters quite active in the
South, Chicago will be our first Northern chapter,"
he said.

"We expect to operate with freedom patrols up
here and be alert for police brutality against Negroes.
And we'll also campaign against shady deals that are
often pulled off on us Negroes in the North.

"The extent of our stay in Chicago will depend
on how things improve here for Negroes."

"THOMAS, father of five, told in an interview
here how he and other Deacons do battle against
Klansmen.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gcl/f 7-24-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 10-26-85

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-26-85 BY SP1 gcl/f

157-244444

CONFIDENTIAL

"We don't teach hatred," Thomas said.

"We do teach that you have to meet force with force. The only thing that the Klan respects is force. It is also the only thing understood by the others who battle Negroes such as the John Birch-Society, the Minute Men, and the American Nazi Party.

"We usually operate down South by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars. We've had a couple of gun battles recently with the Klan but nobody was seriously hurt. We think we sent some Klansmen to the hospital."

"THOMAS said Deacons never shoot unless somebody else shoots first.

"We simply meet violence against Negroes with violence, and it has worked. The Klan is quieter now in the South because of us and the hearings set by the House Un-American Activities Committee in Washington next week."

"The local police have protected the Klan and even the federal government, the Federal Bureau of Investigation included, have been ineffectual in fighting Klansmen.

"The Deacons' activity is 'absolutely within the law,' Thomas maintains.

"We were organized in Jonesboro, La., about 18 months ago because of violence, and threats, by white gangs," he said. "Legally, we're above board because the Bill of Rights allows any citizen to bear arms in defense of life and property.

"In Louisiana we're allowed ownership of weapons as long as they are not concealed. Our weapons are

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

never concealed. We're a civil rights group but we don't demonstrate in the streets. We observe and then act if it is necessary.'

"THOMAS, a Korean war veteran, is outspoken in his criticism of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his non-violent southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"Talk doesn't solve anything,' Thomas said.

"We Negroes are not going to gain our freedom by talking. We Negroes can't continue to let the Klan and similar hate groups trample on us. King and I really live in two different worlds.'

"Thomas is scheduled to debate the Rev. James Bevel, one of King's top aids, at 8 p.m. Saturday in the First Congregational Church, 1613 W. Washington Blvd.

"They will debate the topic, 'Non-violence vs. Self-defense.'"

The following article captioned "Rights Leaders Reject Plan to Start Deacons" appeared in the October 18, 1966, issue of the 'Chicago Defender,' a Chicago, Illinois newspaper:

"Two Chicago rights leaders gave a short shrift to the announcement that the gun-carrying Deacons for Defense and Justice was planning to establish its first Northern chapter in Chicago.

"Earnest Thomas, Deacons' vice-president, had said over the weekend in Chicago that his group, dedicated to meeting force with force, has 62 chapters in Dixie.

"The Chicago chapter was planned because the Ku Klux Klan, which the Deacons were formed to fight, is moving North and we are going to try to curtail some of its activity,' he said.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Timuel Black, president of the Negro American Labor Council, said the people's frustrations had called such a group in existence.

"But I am personally not in favor of this kind of threat. I don't know these fellows or anything about their activities. We don't run with this kind of people."

Black, an executive in the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations, said, on the other hand, that 'unless Chicago changes its racial policies, it can expect many kinds of things.'

"Rev. Lynward Stevenson, president of The Woodlaw Organization, said 'All my friends are non-violent.'

The militant leader said he didn't know anything about Deacons' activities in Chicago. 'But if they're arranging themselves, I'd want to know.'

"This group knows only 'how to get rid of the Klan,' he said. They don't know anything about law and order and the ordinary ways of achieving justice.'

"It's just propaganda," he said, 'that there are many Klansmen around, in Chicago or elsewhere. The Klan is not nearly as strong as the Grand Wizard has reported.'

Thomas, who lives in Jonesboro, La., the birthplace of the Deacons, said the group operates in the South 'by riding armed with pistols and good rifles in radio-equipped cars.'

"He said the primary purpose behind the group was to meet the KKK and similar groups on its own terms."

[REDACTED] b1 that no information has been developed which would indicate that a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ) has been organized.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

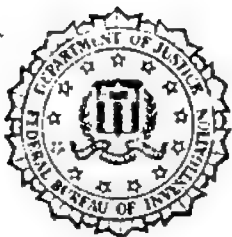
Chicago. [REDACTED] that Earnest Thomas has been in Chicago attempting to interest various groups and individuals in the DDJ but apparently has had no success. [REDACTED] that (c) b1 there has not been any indication that THOMAS has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago.

On October 25, 1965, [REDACTED] advised that no information has been developed that a chapter of the DDJ has been formed in Chicago. [REDACTED] stated that Earnest Thomas has reportedly attempted to interest various groups and individuals in Chicago in forming a Chicago chapter but has had no success in these attempts. b7 b7

Confidential informants who are acquainted with certain racial matters in the Chicago, Illinois, area advised during October, 1965, that Earnest Thomas of the DDJ has recently been in Chicago attempting to gain support for a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ. Thomas has not had any success in organizing a Chicago Chapter of the DDJ and has met considerable resistance from civil rights organizations in Chicago. These informants also advised that there has not been any indication that Thomas has attempted to purchase or obtain any weapons while in Chicago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Chicago, Illinois
October 26, 1964

Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned
as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable
information in the past.

[redacted] is [redacted]

b1
b7

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency;
it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 11/3/65

SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

OO: New Orleans

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gch/1/1 J-21
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-3-85

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau, 9/29/65,
captioned as above with eight copies of a letterhead
memorandum (LHM), enclosed; Los Angeles airtel to the
Bureau, 10/25/65, captioned as above, with eight copies
of an LHM enclosed.

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original
seven (7) copies of an LHM setting out information
concerning captioned organization. Three (3) copies of
the LHM are enclosed for New Orleans.

This LHM is being classified "CONFIDENTIAL" because
information from sources utilized in the LHM could result in
the identification of sources of continuing value and compromise
future effectiveness thereof.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED]
and [REDACTED] in May, 1965 and by SA [REDACTED]
on October 11, 1965.

- (2 - Bureau (Encls. 8) (REGISTERED)
 - 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Encls. 3) (REGISTERED)
 - 1 - Los Angeles
- RNT:bjs
(5)

AGENCY: ACSL, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.

DATE FORW: 11/12/65

HOW FORW: R/S

BY: BPM: C.J.

PROCEDURE

REC 14

EX-112

Community Relations
Service (Cover)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

November 3, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted] that he is (c) b1
unaware of any secret army being trained by [redacted]
in the Watts area of Los Angeles, California. This source
advised that he knows of no association between [redacted]
and the Deacons of Defense and Justice. [redacted] b7C
[redacted] b7D

[redacted] that he knows (c) b1
of no connection between [redacted] and the Deacons
of Defense and Justice and knows of no secret army which
[redacted] might be training. b7C

The above sources advised that should they
receive information concerning a secret army or [redacted]
being associated with the Deacons of Defense and Justice
that they will immediately notify the FBI. b7C

In May, 1965, [redacted] advised Special
Agents of the FBI that he rejects any philosophy of violence
but stated that in areas where law and order had broken down
and force was used against Negroes, they should then be
entitled to use force in return. b7C
b7D

On October 11, 1965, [redacted] advised a Special
Agent of the FBI that [redacted] said
that he does not want to see any more violence of any kind.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpl/fk 7-21-85
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11-3-85

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

757-2466-83

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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7 DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
8 RACIAL MATTERS
9

10
11 Sources utilized above have furnished reliable
12 information in the past.
13

14 This document contains neither recommendations
15 nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the
16 FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are
17 not to be distributed outside your agency.
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F B I

Date: 11/2/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Enclosed are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum for the Bureau concerning captioned matter. Two copies of this letterhead memorandum furnished New Orleans for information.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are being furnished Region I, 113th INTC Group; United States Secret Service; and the Office of the United States Attorney, all Chicago, Illinois.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2) (Info.) (RM)
(1 - 157-) [REDACTED]
- 4 - Chicago
(1 - 157-303) (ACT) b7C
(1 - 100-40219) [REDACTED]
(1 - 157-840) [REDACTED]

LGR: csm

(9)

AGENCY: *Community Relations Service (Courier)*

DATE: 11/5/65

BY: [REDACTED]

BY: [REDACTED]

REC- 13/11/65

5 NOV 4 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1021

Approved: [REDACTED]

Special Agent in Charge

79 NOV 13 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Chicago, Illinois
NOV. 2, 1965

DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

On October 20, 1965, Nahaz Rogers, Vice Chairman of ACT, a civil rights organization with headquarters at Chicago, Illinois, appeared on Wesley South's "Hot Line" over Chicago radio station WVON from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. The "Hot Line" is a show on which usually a controversial person is interviewed and as a result of the interview, telephone questions are received from the listening audience which are answered by the interviewee.

Rogers' subject for the evening was the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. The following is a transcription of Rogers' remarks; the moderator, Wesley South's statements; and questions telephoned in from the listening audience; and Rogers' replies:

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DATE 7-21-80 BY SP1 gcl/jk

157-211-82
ENCLOSURE

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

WESLEY SOUTH:

"....The Deacons for Defense and Justice send a staff member here to Chicago to open an office. Now the Deacons were formed in Jonesboro, Louisiana, approximately two years ago for the purpose of protecting themselves and other Negroes in the South. They claimed that they did not receive protection from police in most areas of the South, so they had to set up their own protection.

"Since the first chapter was formed, there are now approximately 62 such chapters throughout the South. All of these, I understand, are in the Deep South. Well, as of last week, the organization has -- the Deacons, we will call it from here on out -- has established a chapter in Chicago. The Chicago Courier has a news analysis on the page I noticed tonight regarding the Deacons, and they were saying that they had talked to the police, talked to the civil rights leaders, and it was understood that they would stop taking a "wait and see" attitude. Mr. O.W. NELSON did not comment but Mr. -- his press secretary -- said if anyone carries a gun around as it is said the Deacons might, and if they're not concealed, they will be arrested immediately. I understand it is supposed to be in violation of some law to have a pistol within the city. Now, what law this is, I don't know, but I know that you're allowed to have firearms.

"Well, what do you think about the Deacons for Defense and Justice?

"We have as our guest tonight a friend -- I've met him many times, especially when I was in politics and still in politics, I guess you might say -- and he has been at many of my meetings: referring to MARSH ROGERS, and he is -- I understand, you're

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

in contact with the Deacons?

NAHAZ ROGERS: "Yes, I am.

SOUTH: "First I say, welcome to "The Hot Line."
This is the first time you have been here.

ROGERS: "Thank you, WESLEY, it's a pleasure to be
on your show.

SOUTH: "What about the Deacons for Defense? I
wonder if you could tell us why they're
here. I know you can't speak for them,
you're not a member of them, I understand,
but you do know some -- you know their
organization.

ROGERS: "Yes. I have met EARNEST THOMAS, and in
fact, I have met him in several other cities.
I understand from EARNEST that he is in
town to set up a chapter of the Deacons
for Defense in Chicago. And I really don't
know any more about the organization of
the Deacons for Defense and Justice than
most people do who have read the newspapers.
However, I have had long talks,
organizationally, with EARNEST THOMAS, who is
in town now, by an invitation, I might add.
He's in town because a group of people
came together and invited the Deacons for
Defense and Justice into Chicago because
they felt that there was a need for the type
of services that this organization could
render. Further than that, I can only say
that it seems to be a very well organized
group of men. I understand that there are
many, many chapters in the South and that
they have a large membership role. I
would think -- and this is pure speculation
on my part -- that their function would be
the type of thing that any red-blooded
American would feel proud to belong to an
organization who's addressing itself to the
problem of civil rights and addressing

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

itself to the self-defense of individuals
and groups of individuals.

SOUTH:

"Now, you were saying that they were invited
here. I wonder if you could tell us
what organizations or what individuals
invited them to help.

ROGERS:

"I would have to confess, number one, that
I don't know that the group of people who
invited the Deacons for Defense and Justice
have an organizational form at this time.
It is my opinion that a group of men came
together in Chicago who felt that a chapter
of the organization would function well
here and they, in turn, got in contact with
the headquarters for the Deacons for Defense
and Justice and the headquarters, of course,
sent in EARNEST THOMAS, who is, I think,
their primary organizer.

SOUTH:

"Now, did they have to come to Chicago?
What would they do here to protect Negroes,
against what violence, that cannot be
performed by local authorities or state
authorities?

ROGERS:

"Well, what I would say on that point is
simply this: There certainly is room for
improvement on the part of all the law
enforcement agencies in Chicago where the
Negro rights are concerned. I don't think
that there could be a great deal of
argument on the point of the abuse of
Negroes in the city of Chicago, that they
certainly are not accorded equal treatment
under the law. And to cite some examples,
if you would allow me, just a casual
look at the number of police in a Negro
community would give rise for anyone to
suspect that this was not equal protection
under the law unless you would say that a
triple amount of police in a Negro
neighborhood constituted more protection,
which I am inclined to seriously doubt.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

I would think that it constitutes a type of oppression, not really protection. That's just a single area, but Negroes meet with an undue amount of violence -- and violence doesn't always take the form of getting one's head beat. You know there's a subtle type of violence that's practiced against the Negro in Chicago that I think needs some addressing.

SOUTH:

"Do you think that the local civil rights organizations are not able to cope with this or the local courts or the local police, local law enforcement agencies, local organizations, churches -- that they are remiss in their order, I mean in their ... ?"

ROGERS:

"Addressing themselves to these situations?"

SOUTH:

"Uh huh."

ROGERS:

"It is very difficult to place the blame on organizations, churches, civil rights or otherwise. But the fact that one condition continues to exist would certainly lead one to assume that whenever it was whose jurisdiction this fell under had not accomplished their aim, if it was equal justice and equal protection under the law."

SOUTH:

"So they need someone, an organization like the Deacons."

ROGERS:

"I would say that they need an organization and they need someone to further the cause of the Negro as far as being protected from the many and varied assaults on their person, property, etc."

SOUTH:

"I understand that EARNEST THOMAS, who is the organizer for the Deacons, says that there's quite a bit of police brutality here and that they're here to help and protect Negroes. Now, does that mean there

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5 JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
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11 will be open insurrection if they found
12 that a Negro was being, say, resisting
13 arrest, and they happened to come around
14 a corner and saw a particular Negro
15 being beaten and saw that the police were
16 trying to put him under control. Would
17 they go into action then?

18
19 ROGERS:

20 "Now, I have to restate my position. I am
21 the Vice Chairman of ACT, an organization
22 in Chicago. We have been having many
23 meetings with Mr. THOMAS and I am in no
24 position to speak for the Deacons for
25 Defense and Justice. I am speaking about
26 the position of self-defense and
27 defensive measures. Now, you raise the
28 question that I certainly think that the
29 type of activity that's carried on in the
30 South would not be applicable in the city
31 of Chicago. I really don't feel that the
32 Deacons for Defense and Justice would
33 find themselves in juxtaposition to the
34 police activities. Certainly, there are
35 many cases documented, and cases now in
36 the courts, where that people feel that
37 they have been mistreated by police
38 officers. However, I think that there is
39 an over-playing of this as being an
40 area for work on the part of a group such
41 as the Deacons for Defense and Justice.
42 Certainly I would think that any
43 organization, the Deacons for Defense and
44 Justice included, would address themselves
45 to that problem. However, I don't think
46 that coming to the aid of an individual
47 being arrested by the law, as such, is
48 the type of tactic that that organization
49 would apply in a situation such as
50 Chicago.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

10
11 SOUTH:

"Could you tell us in what area you'd like to operate? I mean, just what would be their program? From what you had discussed, if you had discussed this with them?

16
17 ROGERS:

"I would suspect that their program would deal in the area of creating a climate where that the Negro community would be on record as being against police brutality and could take forms that I would think they would, organizational-wise, and I have no idea exactly what they would be. But, there are a number of areas that I think represent themselves as being in an area that a self-defense organization certainly could work.

28
29 SOUTH:

"Such as?

30
31 POWERS:

"Such as, you mentioned with the police. I think that, statistically, it's been proven that there are far too many arrests of black citizens in the city of Chicago in proportion to their numbers, and in proportion to the crimes they commit. Just a casual observation out in Los Angeles and California, where they have a large number of the incarcerated population that is Negro. In fact, the Negro only constitutes roughly about a third of the population of Chicago. It would seem that by looking at that would say that there is some type of injustice where that this overwhelming majority of Negroes are themselves behind bars. That's one case. But ...

48
49 SOUTH:

"Before you go to another -- What I think understand is what would the Deacons be doing with the police? Would they be talking with them? Would they be in insurrection? Or just what would happen?

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10 Saying "creating a climate," would they
11 be at O.W. WILSON, "now this is what we
12 want, this is what we have to have,"
13 or -- I agree that these conditions are
14 there, I don't think anyone can disagree
15 with that. But where would they fit in,
16 this is what I was trying to find ...
17

18 ROGERS:

19 "Well, I think that the group that invited
20 the Deacons into Chicago are of the
21 opinion that there has not been, up to
22 this time, in Chicago a group of citizens
23 who took a forceful enough position, and
24 when I say "forceful enough position,"
25 -- there are many organizations, I would
26 suspect, you would agree, who take the
27 apologetic approach to conditions as they
28 exist in Chicago, and of course it's true
29 in other cities, that somehow the situation
30 will change simply because of the feelings
31 on the part of the structure or the
32 enforcement agencies involved, that somehow
33 the goodness of heart, you know, some
34 will, will prevail. Well, I think at this
35 late date, 1965, that we would have to
36 admit, I would admit, as a person, that
37 the goodness of the heart just is not going
38 to prevail.
39

40 SOUTH:

41 "Would you say that the Chicago leaders in
42 that area -- CORE or SCLC, I know the SCLC
43 is an amalgamation of many organizations --
44 AL RABY, NAACP, or -- would you say any of these?
45

46 ROGERS:

47 "Well, I dislike very much getting into a
48 situation where you address yourself to
49 specific organizations. I would say this,
50 in general, that there are organizations
51 in the city of Chicago who claim to be
52 civil rights organizations, and they have,
53 of late, not been in a position where they
54 were actually protesting anything. It
55 comes to mind, of course, and I would
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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

10 suspect that it comes to mind to an
11 awful lot of people. I am not going to put
12 myself in a position of actually calling
13 that organization's name. I think that they
14 know, as well as I know, that many people
15 around the city of Chicago are very
16 disappointed that an organization of
17 national stature who claims to be a protest
18 organization and who claims to be out
19 fighting for the rights and privileges of
20 Negroes, has found themselves almost every
21 single time on the side, either of the
22 structure itself, or in a position of
23 silence. And this is a terrible indictment
24 of an organization that has the reputation
25 that this particular organization has.
26 As I say, I think that we should do ourselves
27 a great injustice if we would go into
28 actual name-calling, but that there are
29 other organizations in the city who profess
30 to be civil rights organizations and they
31 function as an arm of the structure. Now,
32 you mentioned some names. You mentioned
33 AL RAWY, who happens to be a friend of mine,
34 and who I feel is actually in the field
35 doing a great and good job. He certainly is
36 doing what protest organizations ought to
37 do, that is, demonstrating so that it calls
38 attention to injustices, and of course, this
39 has been done. However, I think that
40 we are in a stage of the civil rights movement
41 where that one has to go a little further
42 than the demonstrations. And when I say this,
43 I mean, don't jump to the conclusion that
44 I'm talking about armed insurrection.
45 You know, there seems to be a great play on
46 words today, in that anyone who no longer
47 agrees with turning the other cheek and this
48 sort of thing, is talking about armed
49 insurrection. No. I'm talking about a firm
50 position within the framework of the
51 struggle for human dignity. A more militant

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

approach, one where that you really take the American concept, as expressed by some of the founding fathers, who adhered to the principle, "Peace if possible, but justice at any cost." I think that this is the line that the Deacons would take.

SOUTH:

"This is very well stated, but I don't -- uh -- maybe I'm a person who likes specifics and maybe you can't be specific -- I mean it's impossible to be specific on -- what do you mean when you say "within the framework"? What would an organization do, getting back to the Deacons? Just what would -- how would they fit into this?

ROGERS:

"Certainly, speaking as Vice-Chairman of ACT, and speaking for our position, we would hope that the Deacons would serve a purpose within the framework of our organizational structure. There are cases where that when people go out to demonstrate, that hecklers and people, you know, who are not a part of the demonstration, come in and disrupt things and on occasion the police seem to be rather reluctant or, I would certainly think, I would be using the wrong term to say that they were incapable of containing these over-zealous entities who choose to disrupt a peaceful civil rights demonstration. I think that a strong-armed organization, and when I say "strong-armed," I'm not talking about armed with guns or that type of thing, I'm talking about just a steadfast, strong organization who would be on the scene and could put an end to this type of harassment, on the part of the regular civil rights movement.

SOUTH:

"Now, that's what -- in other words, they would be there, say they were having a demonstration at someone's home and there

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10 are people who live in this particular
11 area who don't want this particular
12 demonstration. They'll come out and they'll
13 throw eggs or throw water on them. Do I
14 understand you correctly to say that the
15 Deacons, you would hope, would be there to
16 stop this type of thing?

17
18 ROGERS:

19 "I would think that they would serve the
20 same purpose that they served in many
21 instances in the South. Uh, in Bogalusa,
22 if you recall, and this is recorded in the
23 papers, that they did not, in fact,
24 participate in picket lines. They were
25 there to mingle with the crowd that
26 gathered, some of whom were a part, who
27 were sympathetic toward the demonstration,
28 and some who were not, and they would, in
29 effect, act as a buffer between those
30 people who were anti-demonstration and
31 who were prepared to take some physical
32 action against it, and just their presence
33 there, in many cases, was able to deter
34 overzealous people who felt that they ought
35 to interfere with the peaceful demonstration.
36 And I would suspect that they could serve
37 the same purpose here.

38 SOUTH:

39 "Now, let's say that those who were against
40 such a demonstration, they were also
41 determined that they were going to be there
42 and they were going to do what they wanted
43 to do and they were going to stand behind
44 their friends and make certain that they
45 could exercise their rights as they see
46 them, and this could wind up in a fist
47 fight or even worse. Is this right or wrong?

48
49 ROGERS:

50 "I cannot disagree with your speculation
51 that the possibility of fist fights might
52 come out of something like this. I don't
53 think that there's any way of prior
54 determining anything of this nature. But
55 I would think that just the mere act of

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having some Deacons for Defense and Justice in a crowd of people who felt that they wanted to take law into their own hands, would be a deterrent to any activity of that nature.

SOUTH: "Police could have sort of a handful, too, couldn't they?"

ROGERS: "Well, police have their hands full in most situations that involve protests and what-have-you.

SOUTH: "And this might make a little bit more such a -- would I be using correct English by saying they would be 'fuller'?"

ROGERS: "Well, I don't know whether there is such a word, it is possible.

SOUTH: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is 'The Hot Line,' WESLEY SOUTH is your host. Our guest tonight is NAHAZ ROGERS, who is the Vice-Chairman of ACT. We're speaking about the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

"If you have a comment or question, give us a call, we'll be here until midnight. Our telephone number -- 847-2602.

"(Commercial)

SOUTH: "... This is the 'Hot Line.'"

Caller:
(Female) "Hello.

SOUTH: "May we have your question or your comment, please.

Caller: "Mr. SOUTH? Mr. THOMAS was interviewed on another program, on another radio show, and he said that he was invited to come up here and the reason why he was invited was

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

because that the Ku Klux Klan was organized in chapters, starting in Indiana, and his organization was formed primarily to act as a buffer against the Ku Klux Klan in the South because it was proved in Louisiana that a lot of Klansmen were part of the law officials, so therefore, naturally, they were not doing their jobs and that is the reason why they formed the Deacons -- because of this breakdown, that if the Klan was the law, naturally the law wasn't gonna protect the Negro. So, in Louisiana it is legal to carry arms and that is why they are able to carry guns and the only reason that he is coming up here, in fact, made this perfectly clear, was only to act as a counter-balance against the Ku Klux Klan and for no other reason.

SOUTH:

"We hope to have him on our program in a few days.

CALLER:

"Well, it would be nice, but it would also be nice to make it clear -- I was listening to Mr. ROGERS, and if you have non-violent demonstrations, the reason why they would stay non-violent is because a person does not expect anyone in the demonstration to have a weapon, but if you have the Deacons in there and the supposition is that they will have a weapon, and then naturally, anyone coming to counter the demonstration will also have a weapon. So then you are only asking for violence.

SOUTH:

"Thanks for calling.

"Do you have a point on that, WASHA?"

ROGERS:

"Yes. In talking to Mr. THOMAS, who made this as a public statement at a bar Saturday night that the organization that would be set up in Chicago would not, in fact, be armed in the manner that you think of the Deacons being armed in

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

Louisiana. So I would think that anybody who gets the idea that the Deacons will be wandering around in Chicago armed haven't listened to Mr. THOMAS, himself.

CALLER:

"Well, then, Mr. ROGERS, as you've just said, if they were part of an organization and part of a demonstration, what do you think the good would be? By them just being there? You'd have other people there, I mean what would differentiate them from anybody else, why would they be of any use particularly?

ROGERS:

"Well, I would suspect that from just listening to you, I didn't hear your name when you first started, that you have observed demonstrations in Chicago, I have observed them here and in other Northern cities -- that there are occasional incidents of violence that does not stem from the police, it just stems from, as I said earlier, overzealous spectators. And I think that there is an area there that could be addressed by a group such as the Deacons, and I have no authority to speak for the Deacons, to say that this is an area that they intend to work. I was just saying that this is an area that needs work.

CALLER:

"Well, I don't doubt that it needs work, but I don't know if it needs to be worked by the Deacons! I think it needs working, I think that a lot can be performed by the Negroes themselves if they would write more letters. I mean most Negroes are not writing enough letters. They can do a lot to stop a lot of things if they'd just write more letters to these people. In other words, no one knows you object to anything, well, they just continue to do it! I mean, they can write letters, I mean

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

for every man that's stopped a
puts his hand in his pocket and
letter, write a letter! And then if
that doesn't work, well then get somebody
up there, get another form of protest, but
how many letters are being written from
the South Side?

ROGERS: "Not enough, I'm sure.

CALLER: "I mean, we all just holler, but
writing a letter?

SOUTH: "Thank you very much for

CALLER: "Surely. 'Bye.

SOUTH: "Good night.

WESLEY SOUTH here.

CALLER: "Hello, NARAZ, this is DEACONS OF
I'm very pleased to hear
I'm a somewhat regular caller
line" and, of course, a good
SOUTH and yours and LARRY's.

There's just one thing, I
mentioned that at the
Sunday. The Deacons are
for 1954, and
and vote and
house being burned down
his children or his work, and
and say, well, look, if
vote, will someone come
home, and there are
the South and in the North, and
someone needs someone else
besides the white law enforcement
and the Deacons then and

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JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

call on me if you need me, we are here and therefore they can somewhat combat the white sheet fellows from coming to do some harm to them. And they do this -- they watch the registrars and they keep tabs on the people who come to vote and the people then can say, well, we have the Deacons then to call on and I think this is a good point. And he made this point, where he at least has someone else besides the white law agencies to call on to help him protect his home, his family.

SOUTH:

"Are you referring to Chicago or other ...

LANDRUM:

"I'm referring mainly to the South. Of course, they do this in the South and this is their job, where people are in fear of danger, they have someone to turn to besides the white people who constitute almost the entire law enforcement body down there.

SOUTH:

"How would that apply here in Chicago?

LANDRUM:

"Well, we might reach that situation here in Chicago. I don't know exactly what it does, but this certainly is an effort of the ... They might go to bat for someone in a case of police brutality. They might help there, and of course, he pointed this out ...

SOUTH:

"How do you mean, "help"?

LANDRUM:

"Well, engage in some kind of protest, they could go to the captain of the police station and point out these grievances of people and act in this way, or if a person needs protection, and we don't always have enough -- I wish we did, but if a person didn't have enough, he could call on us and say, well, look, I'm in fear of some an

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

such, and he would at least have some
other protection other than the white power
structure and the police agencies.

SOUTH: "All right, thank you very much for calling.
Good night.

"This is "The Hot Line," Ladies and gentlemen,
WESLEY SOUTH your host. Our guest tonight,
NAHAZ ROGERS, our telephone number 847-2602.

"(Commercial)

CALLER:
(female) "...Mr. SOUTH?

SOUTH: "Yes.

CALLER: "And your guest sounds most interesting.
I would be delighted if you have the Deacons
as, the representative of the Deacons....

SOUTH: "EARNEST THOMAS, yes.

CALLER: "And I feel that acting and living with the
ordinary citizens are in the ghetto.
The Deacons might be helpful in giving
information about the cops that are in
in our areas and in the Southern states.
They protect the Negroes who are in
prisons, the Negroes who are in
by the elected police officers.
and our overcrowded conditions.
brought into our communities, and young
women have been murdered and Alvin
LEWIS, and even the Negro daily press.
now we have a daily newspaper here.
sometime I think they really want to
three days after the other press has
can to give certain news, they are like
they are really afraid to give news that will
sound dignified to us of African descent.

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SOUTH:

"You think that the Deacons would read this?"

CALLER:

"I think they could help the policeman because we're so overcrowded here ..."

SOUTH:

"The police -- you know they have -- the candidates can get applications, I understand, up until, oh, another week, and they are having Civil Service examinations on December second or third. Do you think they should join the police department?"

CALLER:

"No, sir. I read that there's a shortage that there are not very many people applying because the policemen are not getting their raises."

SOUTH:

"One question I'd like to ask."

"What do you think, if every organization is in Chicago, so many groups all over the city, do you think that they should be in the police force? How long do you think it would take -- I'll ask you the same thing -- before law and order -- do you think it would take law and order or would it break down?"

CALLER:

"Well, as far as the police force is concerned, we have the police force. I think the Deacons are a good group. I think people show such spirit. Now, I think people who are not interested in the police force ..."

SOUTH:

"Now, would they be helped by the police force?"

CALLER:

"And if they could hear about the Deacons and hear about what they have done in South -- and I know for certain, in the South, areas where they are in the police force, and even on the police force, you know ..."

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go freely for social purposes in our
areas. Well, you know that's not right,
and I think that these people can really
help the police without a warrant.

SOUTH: "Okay. Thank you for calling.

CALLER: "Thank you so very much.

SOUTH: "Would you comment on the question I asked
you, NAHAZ?

ROBARS: "Well, number one, I would say that it
appears to me that other groups or
defensive organizations. They can be
organized, primarily for that purpose,
but it is obvious that there are such
organizations in existence in Chicago.
I would just like to say -- a couple of
questions ago, someone raised the question
about areas of work for the Deacons for
Defense and, as I said, not speaking for
the Deacons for Defense, but I know of
cases where Negroes move into an area
and someone burns their home, someone
throws bricks through the window, or
even invades their home -- that
here's an area that's within the jurisdiction
of one's own private property, and
person might want to call the police for
help to see that their home is in their
own home, and we know that on many
occasions the police have been called
to actually deter this type of action.

SOUTH: "This is the 'Hot Line'.

CALLER (male): "WESLEY? Mr. MC KAY (ph).

SOUTH: "Haven't heard from you in a long time.

CALLER: "Yeah, I been pretty busy.

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SOUTH:

"I understand you have your own radio now?

CALLER:

"Yes, I do, and it's broadcast from the Edgewater Beach Hotel, WES. Like to have you as a guest sometime.

SOUTH:

"Be glad to.

CALLER:

"I have been listening but I have been pretty busy and I have been talking to a lot of people in the last two or three months, doing a lot of things, quite frankly. I have been in touch with the press and I might say, -- probably not much time -- how much time do we have left?"

SOUTH:

"Oh, minute or so.

CALLER:

"Minute or so. That's unfortunate. What I wanted to say could take more than a minute.

SOUTH:

"Well, go right ahead.

CALLER:

"I wanted to say this, that first of all, I think that the pulse of the American people is being misread by many people. It is unfortunate that we have had 40 years of violence against the world in a state of violence. I heard a statement today, I think it was Senator YOUNG, is it, that the CIA had committed atrocities and he just came and blamed it on the Viet Cong to inflame opinion. He said Mr. (Trosby ??) and his show, who is stimulating anti-Asiatic feeling, and the Negro Secret Service agent goes abroad and kills yellow communists, but he doesn't kill the white ones, and I am saying this as any ... this is a fact that exists, you know it is a fact that this exists, and there is a genuine hatred against the red Chinese, and to prepare the American people for this, especially

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for war and to murder millions of Asians with their nuclear weapons, and that we even debate whether or not Negroes need self-defense who are being murdered psychologically, physiologically, economically, sociologically, and every way possible. At 8.8 years left of life expectancy, just multiplying that by 20 million gives you about 1,760,000,000 years of life every time a generation passes out of existence among our nation. So what are we debating, whether we want to live or die, you know? Whatever means are necessary for us to live and for our youth to flower into the full fruition of their manhood and womanhood, I don't give a darn whether they're Deacons, whether it's guns, whether it's bombs, whether it's marches, whether it's demonstrations, whether it's books, whether it's bricks or stones or sticks. The people are the parasites, the white power structure. We are the hosts, they feed off of us, they suck our blood, they grow fat, we grow thin, we die, they live. Now we have a choice, it's very simple. I'm not advocating anything except survival and decency and human dignity for my people and for all people, whatever it takes, if we are men or if we are women. If we believe in the principles of Christianity, the principles of Judaism, the principles of Brahmanism, or Muslimism, any kind of religious doctrine, the principles of purely decent humanity, of humanness, of survival of human life on this planet we will take whatever steps are necessary to be sure then. And we are the actual salvation, the black people of the world, the non-Caucasians are the moral salvation, the only possible salvation of this planet. And if we don't take whatever steps are necessary to stop this frenetic, madlong dash toward hell, and destruction of this earth, we'll wish we were never born.

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SOUTH: "Thanks for calling (Russ').

CALLER: "Thank you.

SOUTH: "Talk to you later. Good night.

"This is "The Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Yes, I would like to agree with the last caller, but at the same time I would like to say that the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Illinois do give every individual, black or white, the right to protect himself and his property. There is no denying the fact that the Negroes in the city of Chicago, as well as in other places, are being denied their rights to protect themselves. At least, their rights are being abused. But I think that in all fairness, that we have to admit that, number one, the laws are on the books, the police are in there for our protection, the Negroes have a right to join the police force, Negroes are in the courts, we have Negro lawyers, that can practice in the courts, I mean we have a lot of things going for us here in the state of Illinois. I am one of the first ones to talk about some of the things that we don't have in the city of Chicago that we should have. But we have a lot of things going for us in the state of Illinois in general and in the city of Chicago, in particular, for our own protection. But at the same time, nobody is going to force protection upon us and the only thing that the Deacons could possibly do would be in the sense ... I heard Mr. THOMAS on the other program the other night also. I think he handled himself very well on that program for the audience that he had, which was predominantly white, but by the same token, I don't think

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that that type organization is needed in Chicago. I hope that ACT and DICK GREGORY, who is my idol, I hope that they are not fostering that type of organization here in the city of Chicago. We don't need that type of organization in Chicago. We do need vigilantes, it's true enough, but we need vigilantes number one, to wake people up, our people, and get them interested in how to use their legal rights to protect themselves with what they have on the books. We don't have people in the city of Chicago who even take advantage of things that are not even denied them. I mean, as far as homes being burned, I work for a real estate office, I know about some of these things. But I have not as yet read where one Negro moved in any neighborhood has actually, in force, tried to protect himself against his home being burned. And he has that right in the state of Illinois, he has it under the Constitution of the United States. He's not using it. We have the right to vote for whomever we please, to even select our legislators. But in very, very few instances in the state of Illinois, and particularly in the City of Chicago, do Negroes select -- they help elect -- but they don't select anything. And the thing is, we need vigilantes here, as I say, but the vigilantes that we need are the type that can wake the Negro people of the city of Chicago up as to what their rights are now, how to take advantage of them. Simple little thing like calling the Internal Investigating Division when you feel that you're being abused, and I can personally say I have never been physically abused by any policeman, but I was verbally abused by a policeman and I can personally state that the Internal Investigation did make an investigation of it. And, uh, people are so afraid, I mean.

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but those things go against the record of any particular policeman, and nobody in their sensible mind, and I'm sure Superintendent WILSON does not want the type of man on the police force that's going to create havoc on the force. Now, but if the people don't say anything, but mumble to themselves, as I say, talk of trials for your doggone sins, I mean, well, nothing is going to happen.

SOUTH: "Thank you for calling.

"(Commercial)

SOUTH: "This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Mr. SOUTH?

SOUTH: "How are you, Mr. MUNFORD?

CALLER: "Fine, and you, sir?

SOUTH: "Fine. Haven't heard from you for a few days.

CALLER: "Well, I have been listening to you, you know, 'cause this is my heart. First of all, I would say this, that I belong to, as you well know, the non-violent organization, but our leaders tell us this, they're training us this. And they say that we are glad the Deacons exist. I know that some are comparing them to the Ku Klux Klan, but then they may ask this question - how many lynchings have they committed, how many homes have they burned, how many churches? The Deacons, thank God, are not night riders. Anyone compare them like with the Klan is simply 'dacion (ph). Now, it's the same way, the Deacons. See, level-headed men that is leading us and I mean, God knows, if there is anything in prayer, I'm praying for it. Mr. SIMS said, one of the

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Deacons said this, "Leave your pistols, your knives, your hammers at home. Leave the protecting to us, that's our job, and to all men who is so like-minded, I think they would agree with me when I say this, that all men oughta be free but only those who are worthy of it. Who are valiant enough to win it -- to want it, to desire it, is not enough. One must pursue and capture it, knowing full well that freedom is not a gift, it's a victory. And let us all work for victory. Thank you, sir.

SOUTH: "Thanks for calling.

"This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "Good evening, Mr. WESLEY SOUTH. Can I make ...

SOUTH: "Well! Haven't heard from you in a long time, Mr. ...

CALLER: "Well, you barred me off of you!

SOUTH: "I haven't barred anybody off. Go right ahead, NICK."

CALLER: "First, I'd say, speaking about Negroes protecting themselves. Someone said I have a lot of protection here. I haven't found it so much and I think you're gonna agree with me. I think, for the speaker tonight, I think the best way the Negroes can get protection in Chicago or anywhere else, and that is, number one, (word or two unintelligible) these organizations. The Negroes must get in these organizations and after getting in there he must support them. That is the number one. Now, of course, I feel this at this age of my life. I don't think anybody doing anything smart, throwing rocks in my car like I seen them throwing them in Negroes'. Now I don't know

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why this is so healthy when I am (unintelligible) ... I have everything that the city acquires me to have on my car. Now, God help anybody throwing a rock in my car. I'm gonna call the police after I call the undertaker. Because I think if a man don't stand up and protect his home and his family, he's less than a man, that's the number one thing the majority of us Negroes don't do. We get in an organization we don't even support it. Our alderman, -- and the alderman I'm talking about is about the only one we have, and it's the 17th Ward alderman -- he made a statement here this summer that they ain't but about five per cent of us support these organizations. So, NAHAB, I think that one thing we got to do. When the more of these people support the organizations, I think the organizations will be in more of a situation to fight them. Thank you, Mr. SOUTH.

SOUTH: "You've never been barred from the "Hot Line," Mr. LAWS (ph).

"Thanks for calling, hope to hear your voice again.

CALLER: "Okay.

SOUTH: "This is the "Hot Line."

CALLER (male): "I would like to speak to Mr. ROGERS.

SOUTH: "Here on the line.

CALLER: "I would like to know if his group is a non-violent or violent group?

ROGERS: "Number one, I wonder how people get hung up in those type of thoughts, "non-violent" or "violent." The ACT organization is not a non-violent. That does not, in itself, make it a violent group. You see, violence is one thing -- ACT believes in self-defense,

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that every man, to be a man, has to have, number one, the feeling for protecting himself, his family and his possessions. Now, violence is something that has been constantly perpetrated upon the black man in this country and I know of no organized black organization that goes out to perpetrate violence against anyone. But I constantly hear people asking whether an organization is violent or non-violent. You know, we are not non-violent, if by non-violent you mean will we go out and offer our members up as sacrificial lambs to allow someone to beat their heads. No, we will not do that. On the other hand, we are not going out to inflict any violence on anyone else. But we teach and preach and hope and pray that every single ACD member will at all times conduct himself like a God-fearing man, and that is, that he will protect himself, he will protect his family, he will protect his property. This is not violence. This is how to deter violence.

SMITH:

"Yes, sir, does that answer your question, sir?"

CALLER:

"Well, I wonder if he, do he think getting behind the voter registration, voters, that maybe this thing will be deterrent, if any person that runs for any elective office, if this group would support anybody that ran for elective office in the city of Chicago?"

ROGERS:

"Yes, we advocate -- this is part of our platform, and program, is that the black community must control the black community and this would mean in every sphere of operation, the political, the economic, black people must control the economics of their community, they must certainly control the political aspects, and they also must control the social aspects of their own community. This is something that to